

## LEAN YEAR FOR OYSTERS.

## Failure of "Set" on Connecticut Grounds Indicates a Shortage.

The discouraging reports reaching oyster growers of the failure of a "set" on Connecticut grounds is bringing strongly to the front the fact that this will be the fifth lean year in the industry. Those growers who have not a reserve stock on their oyster beds will be hard pushed to supply their trade. Some growers have been holding back in supplying the market for poor "sets." As it takes four or five years to mature an oyster, the present famine in Connecticut-grown bivalves is likely to extend through a period of many years.

Growers say that weather and water conditions have been unusually good this summer, yet the "set" is very poor. This is not understood. There are three weeks left in which the young oysters may show themselves, but there is no special reason for a late "set." In Rhode Island waters the "set" is generally declared to be "unsatisfactory."

A shortage of oysters is expected to bring into the market another shellfish which has heretofore been neglected, chiefly because its habits and nature were not understood. Senator Franklin L. Homan of New Haven has been dredging deep water mussels in Long Island Sound. Recently Mr. Homan enlisted the aid of Professor Irving A. Field of the United States Bureau of Fisheries, Woods Hole, Mass., in the study of the new mollusk as an article of food. It is officially declared that sea mussels are the coming popular food. Professor Field says that no agricultural crop can compare with the yield of a mussel bed. He describes the value of the mollusk to European countries and points out the neglect of New Englanders of this very apt food resource, adding that the clam, although highly prized, is a poor substitute for the mussel.

## VERY VALUABLE CARGO OF FISH

With the largest and most valuable cargo of fish ever shipped from Halifax the barkentine Earlshall will get away from port on Monday, bound to Pernambuco, Brazil. This cargo consists of 9900 drums of fish at present, but will be very close to 10,000 packages when she sails Monday. The value of this shipment is \$70,000, and in quintals would be nearly 11,500. Job Brothers are the shippers. This is one of the largest fish concerns in existence and covers almost exclusively the Northern Brazil fish trade. This particular shipment has been made up largely of purchases along the Gaspe coast, where the firm has branches.

In this Northern Brazil trade the Norwegian shippers are about the only competitors. They are a factor largely because their product is of a superior quality. It is dried very hard and in appearance would be discarded by the Canadian. The Brazilian trade is one of very peculiar conditions. It more largely depends upon the economic state of that country than perhaps such conditions would effect it elsewhere. The reason for this is that salt codfish is almost as much a luxury as it is a necessity. Therefore, the purchase of a luxury usually fluctuates with the state of the pocket book. If the crops, sugar, coffee, and other natural products of Brazil are good, then the market for cod in that country will hold as a necessity, it is always in demand. There is very little fresh fish obtainable and that natural craving for salt, in hot climates, which is the counter craving for sugar by the inhabitants of the north, finds satisfaction in the salt dried codfish.

## RECENT SALES SALT MACKEREL

Salt mackerel still continues to bring good figures, the price paid depending on the quality of the fish which varies among the different trips being landed.

Sch. Corona sold her fare consisting of 14 barrels of mediums and 47 barrels of tinkers to the E. K. Burnham Fish Company at \$21.50 per barrel for medium and \$9.75 for tinkers.

The fare of sch. Romance, consisting of 43 barrels of large mediums, 13 barrels mediums, 64 barrels tinkers and three barrels bloaters sold to Fred Bradley for \$1700, lump sum. Both trips were unrimmed fish.

The fare of sch. Rob Roy, consisting of 11 barrels large, 33 barrels mediums and 44 barrels tinkers, rimmed, sold at \$26 a barrel for large, \$23.75 for medium and \$10 for tinkers, sold to the Frank E. Davis Fish Co.

Sch. Esperanto sold her fare, consisting of 12 barrels of mediums and 73 barrels of tinkers at \$21.50 and \$9.75 a barrel to William H. Jordan & Company.

The fares of sch. Lottie G. Merchant, consisting of 20 barrels of mediums and 72 barrels of tinkers and Marguerite Haskins, 10 barrels of mediums and 22 barrels tinkers were also purchased by the same firm at the same prices.

Sch. Esperanto, Capt. Ambrose Fleet, stocked \$1704 on her recent mackerel seining trip, the crew sharing \$34.60 clear.

Sch. Lottie G. Merchant, Capt. Ralph Webber, stocked \$1983 on her recent seining trip, the crew's part being \$36.78 clear.

## CAUGHT FATHER OF ALL SWORDS

Sch. Motor at Boston this morning landed a monster swordfish which tipped the scales at 647 pounds.

## Gloomy Outlook.

The latest news from the Labrador only confirms the previous reports of a very poor fishery, says the Harbor Grace Standard. We are told that one of the men on the steamer Kyle estimates it to be at only 40,000 compared with the poor catch of 81,000 for 1910. Whilst we hope it will turn out over that sum, it cannot be anything but a poor one on the whole.

The price fixed for Labrador fish shipped on the coast is, we hear, \$4.50. Last year's price was \$3.50, a figure, it will be remembered that created great dissatisfaction amongst the fishermen, and we fear led to abandonment of the fishery by not a few, one calculated also to injuriously affect the interests of the supplier as well as of the fisherman and planter. We trust that this year's arrangement of price will be such as to restore confidence and prove satisfactory to both sides. It is exceedingly desirable that as little friction as possible characterize the relations between them. The hearty harmonious co-operation of both are necessary to the best results for both.

## Boston Arrivals.

The fares and prices in detail:  
Str. Billow, 39,000 haddock lemon sole.  
Str. Crest, 45,000 haddock.  
Sch. Alice M. Guthrie, 23,000 dock, 11,000 cod, 3000 hake.  
Sch. Edith Silveria, 25,000 haddock, 10,000 cod, 6000 pollock, 3 swordfish.  
Sch. Juno, 20,000 haddock, 50,000 2000 hake, 2000 cusk.  
Str. Breaker, 35,000 haddock hake.  
Sch. Josephine DeCoste, 19,000 dock, 3000 cod, 4000 hake.  
Sch. Mary J. Ward, 7000 pollock.  
Sch. Motor, 72 swordfish.  
Haddock, \$2.25 to \$3 per cwt.; cod, \$4; market cod, \$2.50 to \$3; \$2 to \$4; pollock, \$1.80 to \$2; fish, 13 cents per lb.

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## The Norway Catch of 1912

Speaking of Norway's great commercial activities, United States Consul B. M. Rasmussen in the Consular and Trade Reports was most interestingly as follows:

Though the great cod fisheries outside the district, their products constitute a considerable part of commerce of Bergen. The catch 1912 probably exceeded that of year since 1860, and the amount handled by local exporting houses equal that of record years. Millions of pounds of dry codfish are annually exported from Bergen to Italy, Spain, Portugal, West Indies, and later increasing quantities to the United States.

The herring catch fell somewhat below the average, but prices were firm throughout the year and net fair profits to dealers.

The fish-canning industry has had a steady growth in this district since the consolidation of various small factories in 1909. Since that time several and modern establishments have been started throughout the district, where it is estimated that more than 2000 people, mostly females, find employment in the factories, fully as many males are employed in the shops and in providing the materials. The canning business, however, did not enjoy the prosperity many of the other industries did, because the price of both olive oil and tinplate had advanced and the supply of sardines was limited.

## Brings 2400 Sealskins.

San Francisco August 24.—With sealskins the steamer Homer returned today from the Pribilof Islands. Sealskins were gathered from the United States government stations on George and St. Paul Islands, and worth about \$1,000,000. Last year Homer brought down 5000 sealskins. Seals are killed only to furnish for the Eskimos of the islands.

## Fish in Morocco Waters.

Fish of all kinds abound in Moroccan waters. The principal species caught along the north coast are sardines and tunny fish. It is expected that the repeated failure of British fishing off the coast of British will have a tendency to favor the development of this industry in Morocco.

## STEAM TRAWLERS FEATURE MARKET

## Three of Them in at T Wharf Today—Motor Has Fine Swordfish Fare.

Three of the steam trawlers are at T wharf, Boston today, the Billow and Breaker, two of the recent additions to the other trawlers being in.

Among the other fares from off shore this morning in addition are schs. Alice M. Guthrie, 37,000 pounds; Juno, 80,000 pounds. One swordfisherman, sch. Motor, landed 73 fish which sold at 13 cents a pound.

Wholesalers quoted \$2.25 to \$3 a hundred weight on haddock, \$4 for large cod, \$2.50 to \$3 for market cod, \$2 to \$4 for hake, pollock, \$1.80.

## Newfoundland Cod Catch.

The following is the codfishery reports in the various Newfoundland districts up to August 16:

District.	Same date	
	1913.	1912.
	qtls.	qtls.
Ferryland .....	16,840	12,500
Pla. and St. Mary's ..	47,690	32,000
Burin .....	83,770	66,500
Fortune Bay .....	41,980	37,200
Burgeo and LaPoile ..	22,470	20,200
St. George's .....	2,630	5,000
St. Barbe .....	17,130	17,500
Twillingate .....	14,840	40,000
Pogo .....	No report	54,000
Bonavista .....	18,059	33,500
Trinity .....	15,750	22,000
Bay de Verde .....	11,470	22,300
Carbonear .....	1,310	1,400
Hr. Grace .....	4,830	7,000
Port de Grave .....	560	900
Hr. Main .....	1,490	2,750
Striats .....	16,700	24,000
	318,000	398,750

## Fish Sales Increase.

A financial letter in a Canadian paper gives the sales of the North Atlantic Fisheries company for the three months ended July 31, 1913, as \$106,026.08. This is an increase of more than 30 per cent. over the figures for the corresponding period last year, and indicates to some extent the growing market in Canada for the company's product.



# **Great Britain's Record Fish Catch Made Good Haul** **The Year of 1912 Ahead of All in Yield and Money Value.** **IN THE NORTH BAY**

The year 1912 will stand on record as a disastrous one in the annals of fish agriculture, but that other source of national food supply, sea fisheries, reached a record output both as regards the quantity of fish landed and the value of fish in the markets.

Read the opening sentences of the annual report on sea fisheries of Great Britain, recently issued, in which it is recorded that the total value of fish was more than four million and a half million hundred-weights and the total value was nearly one and a quarter million sterling, the total excluding and the sea including shell fish. The increase in weight over the previous year is 200,000 cwt., and the increase in value is over £800,000. The report adds that there is a growing demand for fish which stimulates other countries to greater enterprise in competition. Therein lies a danger that over-fishing may ensue. It would be a mistake to infer that there is an excess of the stock of fish available. The feature of last year's fishing undoubtedly the great herring, there being landed over 5,250,000. The total number of crabs was nearly five and three-quarters millions; while over thirty-three million oysters, between six and seven hundred thousand lobsters, and twenty-six thousand tons of other fish were taken. It is estimated that £60,000,000 are invested in the fishing industry and 250,000 persons employed in its branches of the fishing industry.

While the report refers to the demand put forward to extend the territorial limits, it notes that English trawlers, at one time confined to waters adjacent to the British Isles, whose sphere of operations has recently extended to localities as far as Morocco, Iceland, and the Azores Sea, have during the last year or two been taking fish on the Newfoundland Banks. This last source of fish supplies was for years exploited solely by vessels with long lines. Within the few years a number of French trawlers have fished those waters as well as some Americans and Italian trawlers, but it is only quite recently that one or two English steam trawlers have visited the Banks. Judging from the fact that the trips have been repeated, the operations would appear to have been unsuccessful, judging in the Northern Hemisphere may be said to be generally on

Receipts at T Wharf.  
The fish receipts at Boston for the week ending September 5 total 2,235,900 pounds from 52 arrivals compared with 2,582,000 from 70 arrivals for the same week in 1912.

the decline. The exploitation on any considerable scale of Southern whaling grounds began some nine years ago. Those in the neighborhood of South Georgia have proven amongst the most lucrative ever discovered. The number of whales captured annually in Southern waters increased 183 in 1906 to 12,635 in 1911. A feature of this fishery has been the adoption of floating factories for dealing with whale products. Some 36 of these vessels and 169 whale fishing vessels are at present in the hands of Norwegian owners.

There are some indications that in 1912 the whaling industry, though pursued with considerable vigor and in new areas, was not everywhere as successful as had been anticipated. Nevertheless preparations for still further expansion of the fishery continue to be made, and some 40 whaling vessels were completed in Norway alone during the year. The rapid and world-wide expansion of the industry has given rise in various quarters to expressions of opinion that signs of depletion of the stock of whales are already observable, and that means for its better protection will have to be considered.

The motor which has been installed in fishing boats on the coasts of this country appears, as a rule, to have given satisfaction, but the use of the motor for fishing purposes can hardly be said yet to have passed beyond the experimental stage in England and Wales, and opinions are divided as to whether the use of the motor engines in the larger sea-going fishing vessels will ever become a practical proposition. There appears to be reason to think that a series of experiments in the use of motor engines for fishing purposes may shortly be undertaken in Devonshire by means of a grant from the Development Fund. Should these experiments be carried through they may be expected to have a considerable influence upon the future development of this means of propulsion.—Manchester Guardian.

## **TODAY'S FISH MARKET.**

### **Salt Fish.**

Handline Georges codfish, large, \$4.75 per cwt.; medium, \$4.25; snappers, \$3.

Drift codfish, large \$4.37 1/2 per cwt.; medium, \$3.87 1/2.

Eastern halibut codfish, large \$4.50; medium, \$4.

Georges halibut codfish, large, \$4.50; medium, \$4.

Filthead halibut, 8 3/4 cents per lb.

Cusk, large \$2.25; mediums, \$1.75; snappers, \$1.50.

Hake, \$1.50.

Pollock, \$1.50.

Haddock, \$1.50.

Salt mackerel, \$26 per bbl., for large; \$21.50 for medium; \$2.50 for medium rimmed; \$9.25 for tinkers.

## **Sch. Ella G. King Took 150 Barrels of Mackerel in One Dip Off East Point on Tuesday.**

Mackerel are reported in North Bay, a dispatch to the Times stating that sch. Ella G. King, Capt. Walker, having taken 90 barrels, seven miles southeast of East Point on Tuesday. Such is the good news contained in a special to the Times from its reliable correspondent at Squiris, P. E. I.

The fish will run about 150 to the barrel and were taken in one dip. The Ella G. King is apparently the only American seiner in North Bay. Two others arrived, but left after a short cruise. Capt. Walker who is a young man decided to stick, the results apparently having justified his judgment.

Imports of salt mackerel received at Boston to date figure 5200 barrels,

as compared with 7428 barrels for the corresponding length of time in 1912.

The catch of fresh mackerel by the fleet to date is 38,629 barrels, against 21,975 barrels in 1912.

Imports of fresh mackerel landed at Boston this season amount to 110,385 barrels. In 1912, 4197 barrels were brought in.

The salt mackerel catch of the seining fleet to date is 4436 barrels. In 1912, it was 3363 barrels.

The mackerel catch for the week ending September 4 is 543 barrels fresh and 698 barrels of salt. For the same week last year, 2015 barrels of fresh and 902 barrels of salt mackerel were received.

The salt mackerel fare of sch. Taelma sold to Gloucester Mackerel company. The draft had eight barrels of mediums which sold at \$24.50 a barrel and 22 barrels of tinkers which brought \$9.25 a barrel.

## **GEORGESMAN HAS GOOD FARE**

### **Sch. Hattie L. Trask Brings Quiet Closing of the Fish Week and Prices Hold Good.**

Receipts at this port this morning were light, two arrivals being reported up to noon.

Sch. Flora L. Oliver arrived during the forenoon with 80,000 pounds fresh fish and sch. Hattie L. Trask from Georges handling with 30,000 pounds salt cod.

### **Today's Arrivals and Receipts.**

The arrivals and fares in detail are as follows:

Sch. Flora L. Oliver, Brown's Bank, 80,000 lbs. fresh fish.

Sch. Hattie L. Trask, Georges handling, 30,000 lbs. salt cod.

### **Vessels Sailed.**

Sch. Lottie G. Merchant, seining.

Sch. Speculator, seining.

Sch. Monarch, seining.

Sch. Crona, seining.

Sch. Moanam, haddocking.

Sch. Kineo, halibutting.

Sch. Rebecca, haddocking.

Sch. Helen G. Wells, drifting.

## **BUT THREE TRIPS IN AT T WHARF**

### **Sch. Hattie L. Trask Brings Quiet Closing of the Fish Week and Prices Hold Good.**

The week closed quietly at T wharf, Boston, today, only three small fares of groundfish being reported.

Schs. Helen B. Thomas has 11,500 pounds; Rose Dorothea, 36,000 pounds; Washakie, 13,000 pounds.

Wholesale prices were \$2.25 a hundred pounds for haddock, \$4.50 for large cod, \$2 for market cod and \$2 for pollock.

### **Boston Arrivals and Receipts.**

The arrivals and fares in detail are as follows:

Sch. Helen B. Thomas, 9000 haddock, 1500 cod, 1000 pollock.

Sch. Rose Dorothea, 12,000 haddock, 20,000 cod, 4000 hake.

Sch. Washakie, 12,000 haddock, 1500 cod.

Haddock, \$2.25 per cwt.; large cod, \$4.50; market cod, \$2; pollock, \$2.